

HARDIN COUNTY - HIGHGENTLE IN THE HISTORY
KENTUCKY

1937

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Counties & Towns

Hardin County

Highlights in the History

1937

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

Highlights in the History of Hardin County

By R. GERALD McMURTRY

Note—The following information was compiled for the W. P. A. for publication in the American Guide. This work will attempt to give the history of every town and community in the United States. Due to the great volume of material collected the publishers of the American Guide necessarily were compelled to condense the following report considerably. When the publication of the American Guide is completed it will be one of the most expensive works ever attempted, as well as the most comprehensive guide book of any country in the world:

Name—Elizabethtown. The town was named in honor of Elizabeth, the wife of Andrew Hynes. The settlement was first called Severn's Valley, Elizabeth, Elizabethtown Court House and eventually, Elizabethtown.

Population — Approximately 3,000; Greater Elizabethtown approximately 4,000.

Altitude—708 feet.

Location — Elizabethtown, the county seat of Hardin county is located on the crest of the plateau of Muldraugh's Hill about 300 feet above Louisville, and forty-five miles south of Louisville on the Dixie Highway (31-W). The other important highway passing through the town is number 62 running east and west. Elizabethtown is fifteen miles from the Lincoln Memorial and fifty-three miles from the Mammoth Cave National Park.

Transportation — Elizabethtown is situated on the main line of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad, and is only six miles from the main line of the Illinois Central Railroad. A branch line of that road runs through the city connecting it with the main line at Cecilia. It is approached from the north and south by U. S. Highway No. 62. Greyhound Bus lines pass through and stop at Elizabethtown on their Louisville-Nashville runs. Other lines of lesser importance travel east and west.

Hotels—The three hotels in Elizabethtown are modern throughout, being equipped with steam heat and all modern hotel facilities. The dining rooms provide southern style cooking, combined with excellent service. Every conven-

ience can be provided for both the business man and tourist and for that reason, Elizabethtown is known for its unusual hotel facilities.

Tourist Camps—Large and well managed tourist camps are maintained at both the north and south entrances to Elizabethtown. The camps located at the north entrance (31W) to Elizabethtown provides hotel, cottage, apartment and rooming house facilities. Tourist camps located at the southern entrance to Elizabethtown (31W) provide cottages and restaurant facilities.

Climate—The climate in Elizabethtown varies extensively during the year, yet it has neither rigorous winters nor enervating summers, with a mean average temperature of about 57 degrees. A report over a long period (49 years) by the United States Weather Bureau,

located at Louisville, shows an average of 33 days with a temperature of 90 degrees, or higher, and 74 days with a temperature 32 degrees, or under, while the average rainfall is 43.81 inches.

History—Elizabethtown is located in Severn's Valley, named in honor of John Severn, who was likely the first pioneer to discover the site of the future town. Pioneers made their home in the community around the year 1780, and Andrew Hynes had the town surveyed and laid off into lots in the year 1793. The town was regularly established at the July term of Court in the year 1797. The early settlement consisted originally of three forts situated on sites suitable for resisting Indian attacks. These three forts formed a triangle, each point a mile apart. The forts were built of logs and were stockaded. They also served as homes, and they were occupied by the Helm, Haycraft and Hynes families. These forts were frequently attacked by the Indians, and the early history of Elizabethtown has some vivid stories of these encounters.

The early settlement in a few years assumed the aspect of a village, and tradesmen, professional men, and others came to reside there. Social life was developed to a high degree and schools were established, provided in most

cases with excellent teachers. Even at this early date the town could occasionally boast of theatricals, and a dancing master lived within its limits as early as 1800.

The early village was not an unattractive place inhabited by poor and miserable people, but was a village composed of good families from Pennsylvania, Virginia and numerous other states and counties, families who, feeling the pioneer spirit, had come to a new settlement to make their home,

which was at that time the far west.

One of the earliest and most noted citizens of Elizabethtown was Thomas Lincoln, the father of the President who first resided in the town as early as 1796. It was at Elizabethtown that Abraham Lincoln's parents first went to housekeeping that here their first child, Sarah, was born.

After the death of Nancy Hanks, Abraham Lincoln's mother, Thomas Lincoln married Sarah Bush Johnson, of Elizabethtown, in the year 1819. It is of unusual interest to historians that within original Hardin county boundaries in the year 1813 two future Presidents of the United States resided; namely James Buchanan and Abraham Lincoln. Buchanan lived in Elizabethtown for several months representing his father in land litigations while Abraham Lincoln resided on the Knob Creek farm located approximately twenty miles away.

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HARDIN COUNTY—1792

Note: The following information concerning Hardin county was compiled for the Works Progress Administration for their project of publishing the "American Guide."

Name—Hardin county was named in honor of Colonel John Hardin.

Territory—Hardin county was the fifteenth territory to be made a county in Kentucky. It was

formed out of Nelson county by the first Legislature of Kentucky. From its original territory there has been formed in whole or part the following counties: Ohio county, 1798; Breckinridge, 1799; Grayson, 1810; Daviess, 1815; Meade, 1823; Larue, 1843; Hart, (in part) 1819; Edmonson, (in part) 1825. Today Hardin county is the fourth largest territory in Kentucky.

Natural Products — A large asphalt surface mine is located at Summit, Kentucky. There are at present several producing oil wells and numerous gas wells.

Fairs and Expositions—Several school fairs are held in the county every fall.

Public Records — During the existence of the country there have been several different court houses erected causing a loss of documentary material, and the Hardin County Court House was burned in 1932, but many of the old records were saved and are available. There is to be found in the Hardin county court records, the largest volume of manuscripts dealing with Lincolniana in the state. There is an excellent opportunity awaiting the researcher of discovering hitherto unknown and unpublished Hardin county documentary material concerning the Lincolns in Kentucky.

Historical Publications — "A History of Elizabethtown and Its Surroundings", was written by Samuel Haycraft, Jr., in the year 1869. This history contains much information concerning Hardin county. It was first published by the Elizabethtown News in 1869. The history was again published in that paper in 1889-90. In 1921 the history was published in book form (188 pages) by the Women's Club of Elizabethtown. No Hardin county history has ever been published. The Elizabethtown newspapers are constantly publishing historical articles concerning the county, and a file of Elizabethtown newspapers would in a sense con-

stitute a history of Elizabethtown and Hardin county.

Historical Markers—There are few historic markers in the county. The grave of Jacob Van Meter, Senior, an early settler of Hardin county has been appropriately marked by the Elizabethtown Women's Club.

Prehistoric Remains—There are few Indian mounds in Hardin county, but numerous artifacts found indicate that Mound Builders made their homes within the county. Many rock shelters show considerable evidence of having been used for long periods of time by prehistoric people. Several natural forts and other fortifications show unmistakable evidence of having been inhabited for centuries. There are several outstanding private collections of Indian artifacts in Hardin county. The total approximately 50,000 separate items. These collections are unusual by reason of the fact that almost every type of artifact is found and much care and study has been exercised in their selection. The above mentioned collections contain only prehistoric Indian relics of Kentucky, and much time and money have been expended in making up the exhibits.

Firearm Collections — Several private collections of antique firearms have been gathered in the county. The several collections contain approximately 3000 firearms. Many of the guns in these collections are from Hardin county and were used by the early pioneer settlers.

Hardin County Soldiers—Hardin county's history extends back to the fall of 1779 and much data

is available concerning its citizens and their connections with different military campaigns. Lists of Hardin county residents are available, who fought in the Revolutionary War, Indian Wars, War of 1812, Mexican War, Spanish-American War, and the World War.

Lincoln Sites—A visit to the Hardin County Lincoln sites would prove very interesting, however, the roads are not marked to all points of interest, and they are very rough in some localities. A trip to the Mill Creek cemetery in northern Hardin county, (12 miles north of Elizabethtown) which contains the graves of Lincoln's grandmother and two aunts would prove of interest, except that the road leading to this historic site is unimproved.

Summer Resorts—There is a summer resort in Hardin county called White Mills, located 15 miles west of Elizabethtown. Here are to be enjoyed many of the sports usual to summer resorts. Two hotels are available for guests.

Caves—In the rolling country of Hardin county there are to be found numerous caves and formations usual to the cave region of Kentucky.

Academy—Bethlehem Academy (female-Catholic) is located in Hardin county about twelve miles west of Elizabethtown.

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By R. GERALD McMURTRY

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No authentic evidence has ever been discovered concerning the residence of James Audubon in Elizabethtown. Such a lack of documentary material concerning the great ornithologist would naturally lead one to believe that he had no connection with this city, except for the fact that Samuel Haycraft, Junior, the author of the "History of Elizabethtown" made this very definite concise statement regarding Audubon in a chapter (XXVII) of his book about early merchants:

"Audubon and Rozier were also merchants in town at an early date. Their clerk was James Hackley, who afterwards became an officer in the regular army, one of the most starchy and fine dressing men that ever lived in our town. This is the same Mr. Audubon who has since been world-renowned as the greatest ornithologist in the world, and has traveled through the United States, Central and South America, torrid, frigid and temperate zones, and has furnished the world the most complete specimens and descriptions of the feathered tribes, from the humming bird and the sparrow up to the condor, ostrich and cassowary, with all the grave and splendid plumages that adorn or beautify the birds of creation."

As Samuel Haycraft's "History of Elizabethtown" is an accepted source book of good repute, which many prominent biographers and historians have termed as final and authentic, there is no reason in this case to doubt his statement concerning the mercantile establishment of the great artist-ornithologist in Elizabethtown.

Herrick, in his biography of Audubon states that in the summer of 1807, Audubon and Rozier decided to engage in the mercantile business in the Ohio valley, in the wilds of Kentucky. Louisville at the time seemed the most promising point for pioneer trade, so they migrated west for such an enterprise. Readers of Audubon biographies know of his life in Kentucky, his Louisville and Henderson business ventures, and of his successful partnership with Rozier, as well as his failure as a merchant. Certain periods of Audubon's Kentucky residence are well known to historians, but as

to his whereabouts, as well as that of his partner, at certain times, historic records are vague.

In all probability Audubon and Rozier were in Elizabethtown during the early period of their Kentucky residence shortly after they arrived in the Ohio valley.

Haycraft does not state the year of the establishment of Audubon and Rozier's Elizabethtown store. The lack of documentary records indicates that it must have been of short duration. Theories have also been advanced that the firm Audubon and Rozier, in Elizabethtown might have been an itinerant business enterprise. It is not at all unlikely that the two young impractical business men might have arrived in Elizabethtown with a Conestoga wagon filled with merchandise which they sold for a short period, either from their store on wheels or from a building which they likely rented for a short time and when their stock of goods was sold, moved on to a new field of exploitation.

Constance Rourke in her biography entitled "Audubon" (1936) makes the following statement concerning the young merchants:

"They (Audubon and Rozier) purchased goods and by the autumn of 1807 had made the journey to the falls of the Ohio. Audubon liked the little town (Louisville) there with its back against the wilderness and they sold their goods with some success, making trips along neighboring trails as peddlers and scouring the country as far south as the village of Nashville to consider a location for a future store."

One of the most convincing statements made by Haycraft regarding the firm is that James Hackley was their clerk, and from his description and remarks he evidently knew Hackley and was acquainted with his connection with the historically famous mercantile firm.

Little is now known of the Elizabethtown Hackley family, however ample information is available that such a family did reside in early Elizabethtown during the time that Audubon and Rozier most likely made their residence here. Under a chapter (XL) of Haycraft's history entitled "Doctors", he states that a Doctor Potter, who came to Eliza-

bethtown about 1811 married a Miss Hackley, who was a striking beauty. Is it mere supposition to say such a surpassing beauty could have been a sister of James Hackley, the starchy and fine dressing man who was Audubon's clerk and later a commissioned officer in the United States army? Evidence of course is not available to prove the above point, nevertheless the name, Hackley, was not an unknown family of the Elizabethtown-Audubon period.

While it is unfortunate that more information is not available concerning Audubon's store in Elizabethtown, the statement of Haycraft must necessarily be accepted as true and authentic, because of his accuracy and honesty in stating historic facts.

When Audubon resided at Henderson, Kentucky, he came in contact, on one occasion with a former citizen of Elizabethtown, named Henry P. Brodnax. This early Elizabethtown lawyer, was one of the first members of the local bar, and afterwards was elected circuit judge. According to Haycraft,

"he lived and died a bachelor, was scrupulously neat, wore short breeches with white stockings, knee and shoe buckles of silver, and kept everything in print; was polite and attentive to the fair sex, and was urgent in his advice to them not to suffer a wrinkle in their stockings." This odd character of the old school resided in Elizabethtown during the period around 1807 which likely was the time of the establishment of the Audubon and Rozier store. In all probability Brodnax became acquainted with Audubon and Rozier during their Elizabethtown sojourn, and from their merchandise may have purchased articles of personal adornment so necessary to the appearance of a colonial gentleman.

While serving as circuit judge at Henderson, Brodnax had occasion to preside over a case between the noted ornithologist and an assailant who had attacked the pioneer artist. According to a tradition current at Henderson, Judge Brodnax left the bench and said:

"Mr. Audubon, you have committed a serious offense, an exceedingly serious offense Sir, in failing to kill the dam rascal."

As Audubon was such an active woodman it is likely that he made many visits to the territory that is now Hardin county. One of his visits to this county is recorded in his own writings, concerning the life and habits of the "Passenger Pigeon". He made the following observations:

"Whilst waiting for dinner at Young's Inn at the confluence of Salt River with the Ohio, I saw at my leisure, immense legions (passenger pigeons) still going by, with a front reaching for beyond the Ohio on the west, and the beech wood forests directly on the east."

The above observations of the passenger pigeon were made by the great naturalist in the year 1813, while he was in West Point, Kentucky. Young's Inn mentioned by Audubon is still standing today. It is a log house covered with weather boarding, and is likely one of the few Kentucky buildings extant, having any historical connection with the artist-ornithologist.

Audubon always made extensive field notes, and it is an historic fact that he was able to observe more closely and accurately the passenger pigeon in their Green River roosts, than at West Point. The naturalist's description of the passenger pigeon is one of the most interesting accounts to be found in his entire works, and his West Point observations are of interest to local historians.

While following the course of the Ohio river, which was one of Audubon's favorite haunts, he must have on many occasions followed rare and strange birds whose flight was directed toward the Kentucky-Hardin county side of the river. If such be true, it must be agreed that Hardin county birds furnished Audubon subject material for some of his magnificent drawings.

The historic facts connecting Audubon with Elizabethtown and Hardin county are vague and fragmentary, however, a close study of the naturalist's life leads one to believe that he was acquainted with the settlements of Elizabethtown and West Point, and knew all the haunts of bird life as well as the topographical features of this territory.

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ZACHARIAH RINEY—LINCOLN'S FIRST SCHOOL TEACHER

The definite statement, that his first school teacher was named Zachariah Riney, was made by Abraham Lincoln. This pioneer schoolmaster likely exerted the first direct influence over the youthful Lincoln, outside of his own family. In a short autobiographical sketch prepared for John L. Scripps, Lincoln made the following statement concerning his early schooling.

"Before leaving Kentucky, he (Abraham Lincoln) and his sister were sent for short periods, to A. B. C. schools, the first kept by Zachariah Riney, and the second by Caleb Hazel."

Riney was born in the year 1763, in Saint Mary's county, Maryland. He settled in Kentucky some time after the year 1785. With his family he lived in the Pottinger's creek neighborhood, near the Holy Cross church. This was the first Catholic church west of the Allegheny mountains, having been erected by Father De Rohan, in 1792.

Zachariah Riney was living on Pottinger's creek in 1805, when members of the Order of Our Lady of La Trappe established a colony there. The organization at this time remained only four years in Kentucky. It is hard to say just how much Riney was influenced along educational lines by this colony; but it is known that he was a member of the Catholic church, and that the colony was interested in educational endeavors.

The log school house which Lincoln attended was situated near the present site of the Athertonville, Kentucky, school at the fork of what was then known as the Cumberland road and Pottinger's creek road. The school was located about two miles from the homes of Riney and Lincoln who lived on opposite sides of Rolling Fork river. Lincoln likely attended this school in the year 1815.

The teaching qualifications of Riney have been hard to determine. He likely received his education in Maryland. Manuscripts which contain specimens of his handwriting indicate that he was an accomplished scribe. At the time

Riney taught Abraham Lincoln he was approximately fifty years old. As young Lincoln could have learned little more than his letters at the age of six years, this pioneer teacher must have served his purpose well.

The family of Thomas Lincoln migrated to Indiana in the year 1816, and Riney sold his farm in Nelson county about 1830, and bought a farm in Hardin county, in the vicinity of the town now known as Rineyville. He raised a family there and, in his declining years lived with his son, Sylvester Riney, for nearly twenty-five years. The community in which the Rineys lived became known as Rineyville, and today the origin of the name can be traced back to the community's first settler.

In the year 1848 another group of monks of the Trappist Order arrived from France and settled in about the same community in Nelson county, where their predecessors had lived from 1805 to 1809. In the year 1856, when ninety-four years of age, Riney came

to the monastery at Gethesemani to make his home. His grand-son, Brother Benedict, a son of Sylvester Riney became a member of the order, and for that reason Zachariah Riney returned to the scenes of his first Kentucky home.

Riney lived at Gethesemani a little over two years. He died in the year 1859. The location of his grave is now unknown. Father Obrecht, an abbot of the monastery, made the statement in 1909 that the remains of Lincoln's first teacher were interred in the graveyard of Trappist Brotherhood within the monastery enclosure. Abbots who have succeeded Father Obrecht have denied this statement. In recent years several historians have made an exhaustive search for the grave in cemeteries in the vicinity of the monastery, and in Hardin county, in the Rineyville and St. John neighborhoods.

Up to the present time no discoveries have been made. If the ancient pedagogue's grave is found it would seem fitting to erect a marker appropriately worded, setting forth the fact that Zachariah Riney first started Abraham Lincoln on the way to intellectual achievement.

Highlights in the History of Hardin County

By R. GERALD McMURTRY

THE ELIZABETHTOWN POST OFFICE APPOINTMENT BY PRESIDENT ABRAHAM LINCOLN

1/2/37
Shortly before Lincoln's election in 1860, Samuel Haycraft, Jr., wrote the future president elect, asking him to use his influence in securing the position of postmaster of Elizabethtown for D. C. S. Wintersmith.

Mr. Haycraft, only seven days after the national election, received the following letter from Abraham Lincoln:

Springfield, Ill.
Nov. 13, 1860

Hon. Samuel Haycraft,
Elizabethtown, Ky.

My Dear Sir:

Yours of the 19th is just received. I can only answer briefly. Rest assured fully that the good people of the South, who will put themselves in the same temper and mood towards me which you do, will find no cause to complain of me.

While I cannot, as yet, make any committal as to offices, I sincerely hope I may find it in my power

to oblige the friends of Mr. Wintersmith.

Yours very truly,

A. LINCOLN

R. L. Wintersmith, Sr., the father of Swan Wintersmith, voted for Lincoln in 1860 for the presidency, and he was the only man living in Elizabethtown to cast his vote for the former Kentuckian. Hardin county, which was the first home of Lincoln's parents, and the locality in which many of his relatives still lived, gave him six votes out of a total of 2,091 votes cast.

Immediately after Lincoln's inauguration R. L. Wintersmith, Sr., went to Washington and called upon the President, and while there secured the appointment of his son to the office of postmaster.

Mr. Wintersmith held the office until the election of Grover Cleveland, when Mrs. Emilie Helm, the widow of Gen. Ben Hardin Helm and a half sister of Mrs. Abraham Lincoln, was appointed.

Highlights in the History of Hardin County

By R. GERALD McMURTRY 2/1/57

ELIZABETHTOWN LAWYER—SUBJECT OF SKETCH BY WASHINGTON IRVING

The Elizabethtown bar has always received considerable notice on account of its early lawyers, who achieved fame in state and national affairs. Historians and biographers have recorded the accomplishments of the first members of the local bar, but the early life of William P. Duvall, an Elizabethtown lawyer, has become a subject in American literature written by the famed Washington Irving.

Under the title of "The Early Experiences of Ralph Ringwood" appearing in "Wolfert's Roost and Other Papers" and in the "Sketchbook of Geoffrey Crayon," Irving discusses the interesting early life of Duvall recorded from his conversation. In his inimitable style Irving also relates the anecdotes

and eccentricities of Duvall whose career began in the Kentucky courts and carried him to the governor's chair of Florida.

The story of Ralph Ringwood (William P. Duvall) begins with his life in Virginia where he was born in the year 1784. Due to a harmless prank involving a stubborn mule and a frightened negro mammy, which resulted in serious reprimands from his parents and relatives, young William decided to leave Virginia and enter the Kentucky wilderness to become a hunter. Upon bidding his father farewell he stated that he would not return until he was a member of congress.

Young Duvall encountered many thrilling adventures upon entering the wilderness and because of the abundance of game in the territory now embraced in Ohio county, he lingered there several months, almost forgetting his resolution to pursue a political career. He became a proficient marksman and was able to stalk game as cleverly as the professional hunters who became his friends. Irving in relating his story, mentioned the names of many real characters who were residents of that community during this early period.

The desire to become a lawyer prevailed over the leisure life of a hunter and he left his frontier friends. After aimlessly wandering for several days he arrived in Bardstown, Kentucky. Because of a beautiful girl and the prominence of the town's lawyers he decided to make his home there.

After an unsuccessful pursuit of the beautiful girl and a years' inactivity due to misguided study, Duvall became acquainted with a colonial gentleman, a "Sir Charles Grandison-Kentuckianized." This pompous-looking man was Judge Henry P. Brodnax, a prominent lawyer of Kentucky and a member of the Elizabethtown bar.

Under the tutelage of Judge Brodnax, Duvall became a successful lawyer and practiced in numerous county seats adjacent to the county of his residence. A month after being admitted to the bar he married the daughter of Andrew Hynes, the same girl who won his

heart on the day of his arrival in Bardstown.

Andrew Hynes, it must be remembered, was the founder of Elizabethtown, having surveyed the town; laying it off into lots and streets. The first mention of the demise of Andrew Hynes is found in court documents dated December-April 1805. Likely his wife, Elizabeth Hynes, moved to Bardstown after the death of her husband, and while residing there young Duvall met the attractive daughter of the pioneer family. Shortly before Duvall's marriage, Elizabeth Hynes died.

The youthful lawyer became fully cognizant of his responsibilities to his wife, and a few days after his wedding date he plunged into the practice of law, knowing full well that only chance could save him against the polished lawyers of the numerous county circuits.

In relating the circumstances of Duvall's first case, Washington Irving made the following statement in history of Ralph Ringwood:

"We (Duvall and wife) had not been married many days, when court was held at a county town, about twenty-five miles distant."

It is the writer's belief that he above mentioned county town referred to as being twenty-five miles distant from Bardstown, was Elizabethtown.

Upon the arrival at the county seat town Duvall entered an inn, and immediately became involved in an altercation in which he knocked down an assailant and won the plaudits of all present. The next day while attending court, without a case, Duvall was unexpeditely picked for a defense lawyer by a man charged with passing counterfeit money. It is needless to say he won his case, and at the end of one week when court adjourned, he returned to his wife with one hundred and fifty dollars in silver, three hundred dollars in notes and a horse that he afterwards sold for two hundred dollars more.

As stated in the title of Washington Irving's sketch "The Early Experiences of Ralph Ringwood," the life of Duvall is related only to his entry into the legal profession, however, it is an interesting fact that the life of an Elizabethtown lawyer became a subject in Amer-

ican literature by a great American author.

Next week: William P. Duvall in Elizabethtown, Kentucky.

Highlights in the History of Hardin County

By R. GERALD McMURTRY 2/11/31

WILLIAM P. DUVALL IN ELIZABETHTOWN, KENTUCKY

William Pope Duvall was one of the most distinguished lawyers that ever practiced before the Hardin county courts. Upon his entry into the legal profession, he achieved immediate success; probably inheriting his talent for legal work from his grandfather who is said to have been a member of the Virginia House of Burgesses. Duvall's father was Major William Duvall, a Revolutionary soldier, who like his distinguished son eventually moved to Kentucky. Due to the fact that young Duvall in all probability started his political career in the local county courts, his life is of unusual interest to residents of Elizabethtown and Hardin county.

About the only source of information available concerning William P. Duvall in Hardin county is to be found in Samuel Haycraft's (Junior) "History of Elizabethtown." The author of this quaint historical work, which was written in 1869, has presented brief sketches of Duvall's life with about as much charm and interest as did

Washington Irving, in his story of the same character entitled, "The Early Experiences of Ralph Ringwood."

The first mention of Duvall by Samuel Haycraft in his history of Elizabethtown is that he was sworn in as attorney-at-law during the October term of the Hardin county court in the year 1804. At the time of admittance to the Elizabethtown bar, Duvall was twenty years of age. So successful, financially, was the young barrister that his name was accepted, with that of Worden Pope in the year 1810, as security on a \$10,000.00 bond for Major Ben Helm, the Hardin county court clerk. As a result of his popularity and brilliance he was appointed County Attorney of Hardin county, and was a regular practitioner in the local courts for eighteen years (1822).

While attending the Elizabethtown courts (1810, 1811, 1812) William P. Duvall boarded at the home of Major Ben Helm, as did many of the circuit riders of his day. Due to the pleasing personality of Duvall and his colleagues, the house of Major Ben Helm was an endless fountain of facetious conversation and pleasant banter of wit. Haycraft described Duvall as being "the life of . . . social company" and "a good parlor singer." He was generous and liberal and his home at Bardstown was the "seat of hospitality."

From his father, young Duvall likely inherited an interest in the army, and during the war period (War of 1812) of his Elizabethtown circuit riding days, he organized and commanded a company of soldiers called the "Yellow Jackets." This company of men went on a campaign up the Wabash river against the Indians. They engaged their adversaries in a fight and Duvall's company performed with great gallantry.

The opportunity to realize a life's ambition came to Duvall in 1812 when he was elected to congress. While serving in that office he visited his relatives in Virginia, thus verifying an early statement,

that he would not return home until he was a member of congress.

The next step in the advancement of the career of William P. Duvall came in 1822 when President Monroe appointed him governor of the Florida territory. Subsequent appointments by President Adams and President Jackson allowed him to hold this distinguished position for many years.

Governor Duvall's successful and happy life was marred by the tragic fate that befell his son. Burr H. Duvall, while still a youth, enlisted in the war between Texas and Mexico, and was killed by a Mexican firing squad. In his declining years Governor Duvall moved to Texas to make his home, and on March 19, 1854 he died at Washington, D. C.

Elizabethtown is not as closely connected with the life and scenes of the early career of Governor Duvall, as Bardstown, however, due to his close association with the Hardin county courts, and with many of our early distinguished citizens, it is well to give him an important niche in the annals of our historic records.

Highlights in the History of Hardin County

By R. GERALD McMURTRY

Little Known Facts Concerning Lincoln

Ancestry

No male member of the direct line of Abraham Lincoln's family for five generations was born, married, or died in the same state.

Members of the Lincoln family inter-married with that of Daniel Boone.

Daniel Boone was probably responsible for the migration of the Lincolns from Virginia to Kentucky.

Abraham Lincoln was a Pennsylvanian by descent, a Virginian by parentage, a Kentuckian by birth, a Hoosier by education, and an Illinoisian by residence.

Levi and Enoch Lincoln, fourth cousins of Abraham Lincoln, were governors of two states at the same time (1827-28-29): Levi, Governor of Massachusetts; Enoch, Governor of Maine.

Abraham Lincoln's grandmother contributed a gun to General Geo. Rogers Clark's expedition against the Indians.

The name of the Lincoln family was pronounced as "Linkhorn" by many in Kentucky during their residence there.

Abraham Lincoln's mother was a Hanks. The various ways of spelling the name are as follows:

Hangt	Hancks	Hawke
Hangst	Hank	Hawkes
Hanch	Hanke	Hawks
Hanck	Hankes	Hengst
Hancke	Hanks	Hengist
Hanckes	Hawk	

Abraham Lincoln, the only son of Robert Lincoln and the last male member of the Lincoln family to bear the Lincoln name, died in England near the ancestral home of the Lincoln family.

Parentage

During the residence in Kentucky and Indiana, Thomas Lincoln, after he became twenty-one, always had one or more horses in his possession.

Thomas Lincoln established a credit account with Elizabethtown merchant which amounted at one time to approximately \$200.00.

One of the commissioner's tax books of Hardin county, Kentucky, for the year 1814, listed Thomas Lincoln fifteenth in property values.

Thomas Lincoln appeared at his wedding with Nancy Hanks wearing clothing that cost approximately two hundred dollars.

Three months before Abraham Lincoln was born, Thomas Lin-

coln paid \$200.00 cash for the birthplace farm.

The week of Abraham Lincoln's birth, Thomas Lincoln received \$17.60 for services performed for the county in which he lived.

Birth

Elizabethtown is the only center of population that can claim a home site of the Lincolns.

Lincoln was born on Sunday.

The cabin in which Abraham Lincoln was born was approximately the same size as ninety per cent of the other cabins of that day in Hardin county, Kentucky.

Lincoln was born in Burlington, Kentucky. This town was a paper city which adjoined the farm in Hardin county where Lincoln was born in 1809.

Abraham Lincoln was born near the South Fork of Nolin river. This river has more bends and turns than any other in the United States, according to the report issued by the United States Geological Survey in March, 1932. It winds twenty miles while the air line distance is only six.

Sixteen different sites have been designated as the birthplace of Abraham Lincoln. Tennessee lays claim to one, North Carolina to three, and Kentucky to twelve.

Lincoln was the first president born beyond the boundaries of the thirteen original states.

February 12 (Lincoln's birthday) is a holiday in Poland. Thaddeus Kosciuszko, Polish patriot and aide-camp to Washington, was born on that day in 1746.

Kit Carson was born in Kentucky the same year as Abraham Lincoln: Lincoln, February 12 1809; Carson, December 23, 1809.

There was less than a years difference in the ages of Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis; Davis, June 3, 1808, Lincoln, February 12, 1809.

Charles Darwin and Abraham Lincoln have the same birth date.

Georgia celebrates on February 12 (Lincoln's Birthday). Oglethorpe with his colonists landed on that day in 1733.

Famous men born in the year 1809:

Abraham Lincoln.
Alfred Lord Tennyson.
William E. Gladstone.
Charles Darwin.
Edgar Allen Poe.
Oliver Wendell Holmes.
Frederic Chopin.
Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy.
(Continued in next issue)

Highlights in the History of Hardin County

By R. GERALD McMURTRY

2/18/37

Little Known Facts Concerning Lincoln

Kentucky

The father of Abraham Lincoln and the grandfather of the late Senator Robert M. LaFollette lived on adjoining farms in Kentucky.

Abraham Lincoln may have been taken to see an elephant show before he was a year old. On June 24, 1809, an elephant was exhibited in Elizabethtown, Kentucky, the county seat of Hardin county, where the Lincoln's lived.

The families of the three great leaders of the West—Lincoln, LaFollette, and Borah—all lived at one time within a fifty mile radius of each other in Kentucky.

Weems' "Life of Washington," one of the first books that Abraham Lincoln read, has been printed in eighty-one different editions.

Lincoln's first school teacher, Zachariah Riney, became associated with the Trappist monks at age of ninety-four. It is believed that he lies buried in the monastery graveyard at Gethsemani, Kentucky.

Lincoln studied under five school teachers, yet he spent less than a year in school.

For several months during the year 1813 two future succeeding presidents, James Buchanan and Abraham Lincoln, lived in Hardin county, Kentucky, within twenty miles of each other.

Indiana

The Lincoln family moved to Indiana the year (1816) the state was admitted to the Union.

Thomas Lincoln provided for three sets of orphans in his Indiana home.

Abraham Lincoln spent one-fourth of his life in the State of Indiana.

The stature, "Abraham Lincoln—the Hoosier Youth," by Paul Manship, which was erected by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company of Fort Wayne, Indiana, portrays the youngest Lincoln ever sculptured.

Illinois

Abraham Lincoln, who was a captain in the Black Hawk War, was the fifth captain in a line of Lincolns which ran back to Seventeenth Century Massachusetts.

Lincoln's first photograph was taken in 1846 when he was thirty-seven years old.

Lincoln was photographed wearing a linen duster while in Beardstown, Illinois, in 1858.

Lincoln was the only Whig out of seven representatives elected to Congress from Illinois in 1846.

One of Lincoln's greatest addresses, delivered in Bloomington, Illinois, was not recorded.

Lincoln's first law partner, John T. Stuart, was a first cousin of Lincoln's wife.

William E. Herndon, Lincoln's biographer and last law partner, was born at Greensburg, Kentucky, about twenty miles from the site of Lincoln's birthplace.

Both Washington and Lincoln were inventors. Washington invented a plow and Lincoln invented a device to lift vessels over shoals.

Dolly Madison's first husband was a Todd, a distant relative of Lincoln's wife.

Election

Abraham Lincoln was not only born in February, but his political birth, as far as being looked upon as a presidential possibility was concerned, is tied up with his great speech at Cooper Union in New York, which was delivered in February, 1860.

Abraham Lincoln. This combination of names were used on many broadsides during the 1860 campaign in which Lincoln and Hamlin were running for the presidency and vice-presidency respectively.

Two of the four candidates in the 1860 campaign were born in Kentucky; yet the state gave its electoral vote to one of the other candidates.

Abraham Lincoln in 1860 received only six votes for the presidency in Hardin county, Kentucky, the early home of his parents.

In 1860, in LaRue county, Kentucky, where Abraham Lincoln was born, only three persons voted for the presidency. In as many as ten states in the Union, Lincoln failed to receive a single popular vote.

In 1860, Lincoln received but one vote for the presidency in Lexington, Kentucky, his wife's home town.

When Abraham Lincoln was running for president, his son at Harvard pasted one of his father's pictures on a letter, and it reached him without missing a mail.

Abraham Lincoln was elected by the people seven times:

Legislature of Illinois 1834-36-38-40	4
Congress	1
President of the United States.....	2
	7

Basil Hadyn, of Bardstown, Ky., declared that if Lincoln was elected he would never leave his house. He was a voluntary prisoner for forty-eight years (1860-1908).

On the day Lincoln left Springfield for Washington, a rail fence was built twenty miles out of Springfield across the railroad track in order to stop the train so the people could get a glimpse of the new president-elect.

Highlights in the History of Hardin County

By R. GERALD McMURTRY

(Continued from last issue)

Presidency

Abraham Lincoln and his vice-president (Hamlin) were born the same year.

When Lincoln was inaugurated that were five ex-presidents living, more than at any other time in our history. They were Van Buren, Tyler, Fillmore, Pierce, and Buchanan.

Abraham Lincoln was the tallest president. He was six feet four inches—two inches taller than Washington.

Lincoln's bodyguard, Ward H. Lamont was one-half inch taller than Lincoln.

Abraham Lincoln's signature usually contained only the initials of his first name, except on Government documents, where he signed his full name.

Lincoln never wore a beard until after his election to the presidency.

Lincoln, immediately after his election to the presidency, was asked by Haskins family to name their triplets that were born on May 24, 1861. He named them Simeon Cameron, Gideon Welles, and Abraham Lincoln.

The original of Lincoln's Bixby Letter, considered the finest English ever penned, is not known to be extant.

Lincoln was wrong when he said in his Gettysburg Address, "The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here."

When Lincoln delivered his Gettysburg Address, he was interrupted four times with applause. When the speech was finished there was long continued applause.

There were six autographed copies of the Gettysburg Address written by Abraham Lincoln.

Lincoln's wife had three brothers and a brother-in-law killed while they were serving in the Confederate army.

Abraham Lincoln and Mrs. Lincoln were never photographed together.

Lincoln's last photograph was taken April 10, 1865, only five days before his assassination.

Lincoln left an estate of \$110,294.62.

Assassination

The story of Lincoln's life begins and ends with a tragedy. The pioneer grand-father was massacred by an Indian, and the President was assassinated by an insane actor.

Lincoln was assassinated on Good Friday.

Broughton's Monthly Planet Reader and Astrological Journal in the issue of December, 1864, gave a definite prediction of the assassination of Abraham Lincoln or the removal of a very high government official.

Beginning with William Henry Harrison, all of the Presidents of the United States elected in a year divisible by twenty have been the victims of a tragic fate. Harrison was elected in 1840 and died a month after his inauguration; Abraham Lincoln, first elected 1860

was assassinated in 1865; James A. Garfield, elected in 1880, was shot and killed during his first year as president; William McKinley, elected for a second term in 1900, fell, the victim of an assassin's bullet, in 1901; Warren G. Harding, elected in 1920, died while serving in office.

Abraham Lincoln was assassinated four years to a day from his first proclamation calling for 75,000 soldiers.

Abraham Lincoln was shot with a Derringer pistol, a type used in the South and of the same make as was carried by Stephen A. Douglas during his political career.

Both Lincoln and McKinley were killed with Derringer pistols.

Lincoln's assassination and death became one of the greatest news events in American history. The New York Herald of April 15, 1865, which featured the tragedy, has likely been reprinted more than any other American newspaper ever published.

Robert Todd Lincoln, the oldest son of Abraham Lincoln, was present either at the death or assassination of the three martyred American presidents.

Ford's Theatre, where Lincoln's assassination occurred, was originally a church. The building was erected by the First Baptist congregation in the year 1833.

No stage performances were ever held in Ford's Theatre after the night of Lincoln's assassination.

(Continued in next issue.)

Highlights in the History of Hardin County

By R. GERALD McMURTRY

2/25/37

Little Known Facts Concerning Lincoln

(Continued from last issue)
Assassin

John Wilkes Booth was only twenty-seven years old when he assassinated Lincoln.

A monument to John Wilkes Booth, the assassin of Abraham Lincoln, until a few years ago stood in Troy, Alabama.

One of the last stage appearances of John Wilkes Booth was in the play "Julius Caesar," in which he took the role of Mark Anthony whose part it was to incite the Roman populace against the assassin, Brutus.

W. J. Ferguson, an actor, on one occasion saw John Wilkes Booth lying and smoking a pipe on the same bed in which Lincoln died.

The yearly income of John Wilkes Booth at the time he assassinated Lincoln amounted to approximately \$20,000.

There is no marker over the grave of John Wilkes Booth in the Booth cemetery at Baltimore, Maryland.

Sergeant Boston Corbett, who killed John Wilkes Booth, went insane. After being confined to an asylum for some time he escaped and was never heard of again.

A man claiming to be John Wilkes Booth lived in Oklahoma and died at the age of sixty-four.

Edwin Booth, the brother of John Wilkes Booth, saved the life of Lincoln's son.

Edwin Booth, the brother of Lincoln's assassin, voted but once in his life and that was for Lincoln in 1864.

Edwin Booth never appeared on the stage in Washington, D. C.,

after Lincoln's assassination by his brother.

The busts of Edwin Booth (brother of John Wilkes Booth) and Abraham Lincoln are in the Hall of Fame.

Funeral

Lincoln was buried in the suit of clothes that he wore at his second inaugural.

According to reports it has been estimated that approximately 300,000 people viewed Lincoln's remains in Philadelphia.

Abraham Lincoln's remains were viewed by approximately a million people before his burial in Springfield.

It has been estimated that nearly thirty million people attended memorial funeral services held in memory of Abraham Lincoln throughout America.

The body of Willie Lincoln, who died in 1862, was disinterred and taken with his father's body on the funeral train to Springfield Illinois, for burial.

The funeral train conveying the remains of Abraham Lincoln traveled over a 1600-mile route that lasted eighteen days.

Mrs. Abraham Lincoln because of ill health did not attend the funeral services of the president.

The martyred president's body was so well embalmed that the body was recognizable by thirty witnesses thirty-six years after his death.

On November 7, 1876, the day of the election of Rutherford B. Hayes to the presidency, thieves attempted to steal Lincoln's body from the tomb in Springfield, Illinois.

(Continued in next issue)

Highlights in the History of Hardin County

By R. GERALD McMURTRY

3/2/37

Little Known Facts Concerning Lincoln

Literature

There is an average today of more than one book or pamphlet, published each week about Abraham Lincoln.

Lincoln leads all the historical characters in the world in volume of literature concerning him (Biblical characters excepted).

The life of Lincoln has been written in the following languages:

Korean	Arabic
Latin	Armenian
Norwegian	Bohemian
Persian	Chinese
Polish	Czechoslovakian
Slovak	Danish
Spanish	Dutch
Swedish	French
Turkish	German
Welsh	Greek
Yiddish	Hawaiian
Portuguese	Hebrew
Parsee	Hungarian
Russian	Icelandic
Saxon	Italian
Orthography	Japanese

A book of 160 pages, which is smaller than a postage stamp, contains parts of four Lincoln addresses. This book was printed on one of the largest presses in the world.

The Lincoln National Life Foundation of the Lincoln National Life Insurance Company has the largest collection of literature ever assembled about one man (Lincoln) since the beginning of time.

The approximate total of tabulated letters written by Abraham

Lincoln numbers 2500.

The published words of Abraham Lincoln number approximately 1,078,365. Comparing this total with the Bible and Shakespeare we have this summary:

The Bible including the	
Apocrypha.....	926,877
Shakespeare, Complete	
Works.....	1,025,000
Lincoln's printed speeches	
and writings.....	1,078,365

The quotation attributed to Abraham Lincoln: "You can fool some of the people some of the time, but not all of the people all of the time," is not contained in any of his published works.

Miscellaneous

The number seven and its multiples appear frequently in the life of Lincoln. He spent—

7 years in Kentucky
7 years in rural Illinois
7 years in the District of Columbia
2x7 years in Indiana
3x7 years in Springfield

56 total

A half million students placed Lincoln second on their list of world heroes. Louis Pasteur headed the list.

Mrs. Lincoln was officially declared insane by a court of inquest, and she was confined in a sanitarium at Batavia, Illinois, from May 20 until September 10, 1875.

Lord Shaw, a leading English legal authority, told the American Women's Club in London that he considered Abraham Lincoln one of the five greatest lawyers of the past. The others were Papinianus, Grotius, Duncan-Forbes, and Lord Mansfield.

In the Memorial Union Building, Indiana State University, Bloomington, Indiana, are the following names engraved on the interior stone walls: Jesus Christ, Aristotle, Galileo, Shakespeare, Lincoln.

Doshisha College, Kyoto, Japan, held a ballot on the relative standing of international heroes. Japan's immortal warrior, Nogi, held first place, and also second place fell to one of their own nationals, Takamori: but a fairly close third came Abraham Lincoln. These three followed: Togo, Mussolini and Edison.

Bruce Barton interviewed H. G. Wells, the famous English historian and asked him to name the six greatest figures in history. These are the men Wells named: Jesus of Nazareth, Buddha, Asoka, Aristotle, Roger Bacon and Abraham Lincoln.

The Lincoln name is a popular place name in America. There are forty-two postoffices in the United States using the name "Lincoln" alone or in composition.

Highlights in the History of Hardin County

By R. GERALD McMURTRY

3/4/37

An Important Lincoln Letter

In this column on several different occasions, the letters which Abraham Lincoln wrote to Samuel Haycraft, Junior, of Elizabethtown, Ky., have had considerable notice. These letters have been discussed from both a historical and political point of view, however, because of the importance of the May 28, 1860 communication in the study of general Lincolniana it is believed that additional discussion will prove of interest, regarding the most important letter of the five received by Haycraft.

This interesting letter was sent to Samuel Haycraft by Lincoln only two weeks after Lincoln's nomination at the Republican Convention at Chicago for the presidency. The letter was in answer to one received from Haycraft, who had made inquiry regarding his birth and family, and his connection with Elizabethtown and Hardin county. In response Lincoln answered the questions and then recalled circumstances of an early common environment of which he and his correspondent were familiar.

Letters of presidents of the United States, giving their early history, family connections and birth date are extremely rare. Recently an autograph dealer stated that a Lincoln letter, as described above, and in all probability the Lincoln-Haycraft letter of May 28, 1860, sold for \$1900.00.

According to newspaper accounts published February 12, 1920, concerning the May 28, 1860, Lincoln-Haycraft letter, a Mr. J. P. Horn acquired the manuscript from the Haycraft family who had treasured it many years as a family heirloom. The letter next became the property of the noted antiquarian, Thomas F. Madigan, of New York City. The late Madigan made the statement that in all of his many years experience collecting Lincoln letters, that he had never before seen or heard of an original letter of Lincoln's in which he set forth in his own handwriting the date and place of his birth, and the names of his father, mother and stepmother.

In answer to Haycraft's inquiry, Lincoln established without question the names of his parents, and the place and date of birth. The

truth of his statements should be challenged and the claims of other communities desiring to establish Lincoln birth sites should be dis-

missed without comment. In his own words written to Haycraft, Lincoln has given to posterity the most essential facts concerning his parentage and childhood, which stand firmly against critical historians who desire to change the facts of history.

The envelope which contained the letter, and which bears a Springfield, Illinois, cancellation stamp, is also extant and is addressed as follows:

Hon. Samuel Haycraft
Elizabethtown
Kentucky

It is not surprising that Lincoln separated the word Elizabethtown, as the town was first called Elizabethtown, Elizabethtown Court House, Elizabeth-Town and eventually Elizabethtown.

Mistakes in spelling are to be noted in the letter. When Lincoln first mentioned the name of his step-mother he correctly spelled her name JOHNSTON, while in the second mention of her name he incorrectly spelled the name JOHN-SON. It is also of interest to note that he spelled Hodgenville incor-

rectly, the name being spelled Hogginsville.

The text of the letter is as follows:

Springfield, Ills., May 28, 1860
Hon. Saml. Haycraft
Dear Sir:

Your recent letter without date is received. Also the copy of your speech on the contemplated Daniel Boone monument, which I have not yet had time to read. In the main you are right about my history. My father was Thomas Lincoln and Mrs. Sally Johnston, was his second wife. You are mistaken about my mother. Her maiden name was Nancy Hanks. I was not born at Elizabethtown, but my mother's first child, a daughter two years older than myself, and now long since deceased, was. I was born February 12, 1809, near where Hogginsville now is, then in Hardin county. I do not think I ever saw you, though I very well know who you are, so well that I recognized your hand-writing on opening your letter, before I saw the signature. My recollection is that Ben Helm was first clerk, that you succeeded him, that Jack Thomas and William Farleigh graduated in the same office and that your handwritings were all similar. Am I right?

My father has been dead near ten years; but my stepmother (Mrs. Johnson) is still living.

I am really very glad of your letter and shall be pleased to receive another at any time.

Yours Very Truly,
A. Lincoln

Highlights in the History of Hardin County

By R. GERALD McMURTRY

3-11-37

Lincoln Land Litigation In Kentucky

The pioneer Lincolns have always been criticised for their periodic land purchases, and their frequent removals from one home site to another. If one should make a study of the facts behind the causes for their many nomadic migrations, the conclusion would be that the Lincolns were the victims of land sharks, squatters and crafty land lawyers. The lack of government land surveys caused the Lincolns to lose considerable money in Kentucky, and eventually was responsible in a large measure for their migration to Indiana.

In order to accurately state the facts connected with the Lincoln land purchases, it is necessary to go back to the period of colonial Virginia to John Lincoln. This colonial gentleman (great-grandfather of the President) was one of Virginia's wealthiest men, as well as being a member of the Virginia law making body of that period. John Lincoln's son, Captain Abraham Lincoln, (grandfather of the President) inherited his father's estate, and after hearing Daniel Boone describe the "Kentuckie Countrie" he resolved to leave Virginia for the New Canaan. After liquidating the John Lincoln estate he took his family to Kentucky and began the purchasing of vast tracts of Kentucky wilderness land.

The total land holdings of Captain Abraham Lincoln amounted to 5,768 acres. A part of this acreage was purchased with land office warrants received for his Rockingham County, Virginia, farm.

His six tracts were as follows:

1000 acres, 1776—Entered for

Lincoln by Daniel Boone

800 acres, 1780—Grant by Lieutenant Governor Beverly Randolph of Virginia.

400 acres, 1780—Grant by Governor James Garrard of Kentucky.

500 acres, 1782—Entered for Lincoln by Daniel Boone—Warrant No. 5994.

2268 acres, 1784—Green River Tract.

In the year 1786 when Thomas Lincoln was ten years old, Captain Lincoln was murdered by a Wabash Indian and his landed estate was left to his family to protect against crafty land claimants, due to faulty and insecure land titles. After the death of the father, the Lincoln family moved to Washington county, and as Captain Lincoln died interstate, and as all of his children were minors, the court appointed administrators to serve until the eldest son, Mordecai was of age. Upon reaching his majority the estate was settled in the Nelson County Court.

According to the law of primogeniture, Mordecai inherited the estate, but he made some kind of a settlement with the other members of the family. The inheritance was rather small due to the loss of property the estate incurred as a result of the faulty land claims. After the loss of this property the family was never again able to recover the lost wealth that had been handed down from father to son since the migration of the family from Massachusetts to Virginia.

(Continued in next issue)

Highlights in the History of Hardin County

By R. GERALD McMURTRY

3/17/54

Lincoln Land Litigation In Kentucky

(Continued from last installment)

Thomas Lincoln upon receiving his small share of the estate, purchased on September 2, 1803 from John T. Slater for 118 pounds, 238 acres of land in Hardin county located on Mill Creek. This property was about ten miles north of Elizabethtown and was the first investment of the Lincolns in Hardin county. In the year 1807 Lincoln purchased a lot in Elizabethtown, and in the year 1808 an additional lot was entered on the tax lists. On December 12, 1808 he bought from Isaac Bush a tract of land comprising 300 acres (Farm on which Abraham Lincoln was born) for which he paid \$200.00 and in addition to this sum he assumed a small obligation due Richard Mather, a former title holder.

The first title difficulty experienced by the father of the President (Lincoln) was in September, 1813. On September 1st he was made the defendant, with David Vance and Isaac Bush, in a suit brought by the original owner to recover payment on a note which Mather alleged was due him from Vance.

A brief summary of the court proceedings for the year 1813 are as follows:

September 1, 1813—Suit filed.

September 6, 1813—Summons was issued for his appearance.

September 7, 1813 — Thomas Lincoln filed his answer to complainant's bill.

September 13, 1813—Mather filed a reply to the answer of Thomas Lincoln and also to the answer of Isaac Bush.

It is of interest to note that for several months during the year 1813, James Buchanan the future fifteenth president of the United States, was in Elizabethtown, representing his father's interests in numerous land suits.

On October 27, 1814 Lincoln sold his Mill Creek farm to Charles Melton. He signed his name to the deed, but his wife, Nancy Hanks Lincoln, made her mark. In the year 1815 he purchased 230 acres of land on Knob Creek, probably with the 100 pounds received for the farm on Mill Creek.

In January 1816 the birthplace farm suit was again brought before the Hardin County Court and on September 12, 1816 the court found for the plaintiff, Mather.

The decree stated that David Vance was to pay \$61.00 and costs to Richard Mather. Thomas Lincoln was to receive \$200.00 from Bush and Bush was to recover \$200.00 from Vance. On December 19th the farm was sold by a commissioner named Benjamin Wright, and the 300 acres were disposed of for \$87.74. On January 21, 1817 a suit was filed in which Lincoln tried to collect his \$200.00 but there is no record to show that it was ever paid, and he was the real loser in the birthplace farm deal.

In the year 1815 while Thomas Lincoln and his family were living on the Knob Creek farm he was notified on September 15th of that year that unless he could show title as a defendant in the suit that was brought against him as a tenant in possession he would be forced to give up the property. Lincoln was one of ten men who had purchased parts of the 10,000 acre tract, and one of his neighbors who was jointly used was Jesse LaFollette, the grandfather of the late Senator Robert M. LaFollette. The plaintiffs decided to make a test suit of the Lincoln case, and the case was carried through several terms of court. In September 1816 the case was still continued until a following term, when Thomas Lincoln left Kentucky.

When Abraham Lincoln wrote his autobiography for Scripps he said: "From this place (Knob Creek Farm) he (Thomas Lincoln) removed to what is now Spencer county, Indiana, in the autumn of 1816, Abraham then being in his eighth year. This removal was partly on account of slavery, but chiefly on account of the difficulty in land titles." Thomas Lincoln from the year 1803 to 1816 had purchased three farms, the first being sold with a loss of thirty-eight acres, which represented a loss of eighteen pounds. The second he bought for cash and a small obligation, but in the end

he lost the amount paid for the property plus court costs. The third farm he lost through an ejectment suit. Such difficulties with land titles due to the lack of official government land surveys and the proper recording of deeds would naturally cause Lincoln to seek a new country and he decided that Indiana offered good opportunities.

Highlights in the History of Hardin County

By R. GERALD McMURTRY

Sarah Lincoln

Abraham Lincoln's only sister was born in Elizabethtown, Kentucky on February 10, 1807, and she was two years and two days older than her famous brother. This year (1937) is the one hundred and thirtieth anniversary of the birth of Sarah Lincoln, who was probably named in honor of Sarah Shipley Mitchell, her mother's cousin and playmate during their childhood years. Sarah was a tragic little figure who has been lifted from oblivion by the fame of her brother. She married an Indiana youth named Aaron Grigsby and died January 20, 1828. Her grave was unnoticed and forgotten for about fifty years, and in the year 1916 the State of Indiana erected a monument in her honor over her grave at the Pigeon Creek Baptist Cemetery, in Spencer county, about a mile from the grave of Lincoln's mother. At the dedication of this monument the following poem written for this occasion by Max Ehrman was read by the author:

ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S SISTER, SARAH

The summer moon and sun have
watched her sleep
Now fourscore years and eight. To
him this place
Was ever dear with twilight's
tender memories;
For here her laughing lips cried
out, "Halloo"
As up the path he came at close
of day.
A thousand times he bore her on
his back,
With boyish strength abused her
lovingly,
Provoked by playful taunts, by
many jests,
Then she, returning to her task
indoors,
Left him alone to brood upon the
night.

The sunset built famed cities in
his brain,

Forced from his breast the sigh for
surging men,

Welling up, like wind-tossed
rivers, one great hope,

To force from life the promises
of dream.

One round of toiling days, of
peaceful nights,

He stood here once, a saddened
boy, forlorn,

And saw her form descend into
the earth.

Thus early came the gloaming to
his soul,

Into his boyish eyes the far-off
look

That, yearning, seeks to see where
death has trod.

He wandered forth, through dark-
ened wilderness;

Yet somehow ever wandered to-
ward the light,

Until he held a nation in his hand.
He was a rock in storm; in milder
days

A pliant branch bent down with
mellow fruit.

He was as tender as the yellow
leaves

That autumn winds toss o'er her
grave.

Through leaden days, through
fevered flaming nights,

Through hate and horror of a
blood-smeared land,

This early sorrow made for love
in him.

Here, then, was sorrow garnished,
grief made great,

Here bloomed the balm that sooth-
ed a nation's wounds,

And his dead self still makes for
love and peace.

Highlights in the History of Hardin County

By R. GERALD McMURTRY

April 1937

Captain Spier Spencer's Mounted Riflemen, "The Yellow Jackets"

In the History of Elizabethtown, Kentucky, written by Samuel Haycraft, Junior, mention is made of a company of soldiers that was organized in Elizabethtown and Hardin county to fight in the Indian war of 1811. This company was called the "Yellow Jackets" and through the efforts of William P. Duvall, later territorial Governor of Florida, a great number of Hardin county residents enlisted for a term of approximately thirty days, to fight the savages in the upper Wabash region of the Northwest Territory.

William P. Duvall practiced law in Elizabethtown and was appointed county attorney of Hardin county. He was a circuit riding lawyer and resided at Bardstown, having married the daughter of Andrew Hynes, one of the founders of Elizabethtown. Spier Spencer was also at one time a resident of Nelson county, and was a member of a prominent family of that section. Undoubtedly, William P. Duvall was acquainted with Spier Spencer, and because of this acquaintance was interested in the military expedition against the Indians under the command of General William Henry Harrison. The friendship between Duvall and Spencer would most likely account for the enlistment of so many men from this territory.

In the biographical study of Duff Green, later a confidential adviser of President Andrew Jackson, Haycraft devoted a short paragraph concerning his (Duff Green) military experiences as follows:

"Shortly after this, date not recollected, Green volunteered a company called the "Yellow Jackets," commanded by Governor W. P. Duvall (Territorial Governor of Florida) and went on a campaign up the Wabash against the Indians. In this Indian fight, Green showed

great gallantry and the horse he rode was shot in the neck."

While it is true that the Kentucky contingent was under the command of William P. Duvall while enroute to the Indiana Territory, he relinquished his command to Capt. Spier Spencer upon their arrival at Corydon, Indiana, Spencer having organized an Indiana Territory troop to fight with the Kentuckians.

Spier Spencer had fought with General St. Clair and General Wayne, in the early Indian wars, and organized in the year 1811, a volunteer company for General Harrison's expedition. The prominent, but nondescript Kentucky soldiers left the county in a unit under the leadership of Duvall and preceeded to Brandenburg, Kentucky, where they crossed the Ohio river. They continued their journey to Corydon, Indiana, where they were to receive instruction and training in Indian warfare. Early accounts relate that these mounted riflemen paraded in the streets of Corydon before moving up into the Wabash country.

The soldiers were not disappointed in their desire for action and on November 7, 1811, the battle of Tippecanoe was fought. One of the heroes who fell was Captain Spier Spencer.

With the expiration of their enlisted term, the Hardin county soldiers returned to their homes, returning by way of Brandenburg Ferry, at which point they were mustered out of the army. As the Indian war of 1811 did not decisively end the Indian uprising and British meddlings in the United States territorial affairs, many of these same Hardin county citizens re-enlisted for the War of 1812 and traveled over the same route to the Old Northwest Territory for service in the cause of their country.

Highlights in the History of Hardin County

By R. GERALD McMURTRY 4/17/77

A Summary of Facts Pertaining to the Lincolns In Elizabethtown and Hardin County.

Elizabethtown is the only corporate community that can claim a home site of the Thomas Lincoln family.

The Hardin County court house located in Elizabethtown is one of the chief documentary sources of Lincolnia in Kentucky.

The first record of Thomas Lincoln, the father of the 16th president, in Elizabethtown is July 13, 1796 where he received \$9.56 for services while in the employ of Samuel Haycraft, Senior.

In 1797 Thomas Lincoln was employed by Samuel Haycraft, Sr., to work on a mill and race just outside the limits of Elizabethtown. It was at this time that he received his first regular monetary wages.

Thomas Lincoln owned, and paid taxes on two lots within the city limits of Elizabethtown.

While living in Elizabethtown Thomas Lincoln worked as a laborer, cabinet maker and carpenter.

Elizabethtown has many quaint old homes, some of which were in all probability partly constructed by Thomas Lincoln, while a few contain furniture made by him.

Thomas Lincoln had excellent credit with the early Elizabethtown merchants as evidenced by early accounts which amounted to as high as one hundred dollars, and in some cases more. These accounts show where payments were made and the accounts squared.

Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks made their first home in Elizabethtown immediately after their marriage on June 12, 1806.

Sarah Lincoln, an older sister of Abraham Lincoln, was born in Elizabethtown, February 10, 1807.

Of the total value of property listed in a tax book for the year 1814 in which ninety-eight persons are listed, only fifteen show ownership of greater property value than Thomas Lincoln.

Abraham Lincoln in the year 1816, passed through Elizabethtown with his family on the way to Indiana.

Thomas Lincoln and Christopher Bush signed the Lincoln-Johnston marriage bond in Elizabethtown,

December 2, 1819. This document is to be found in the court records of the Hardin County, Clerk's office.

Thomas Lincoln married his second wife, Sarah Bush Johnston in Elizabethtown, December 2, 1819.

Rev. George L. Rogers, an Elizabethtown minister of the Methodist Episcopal church, performed the marriage ceremony uniting Thomas Lincoln and Sarah Bush Johnston.

Peter Cartright, the noted pioneer Methodist preacher, and an opponent of Abraham Lincoln in 1846 in his race for Congress, voted in an Elizabethtown election in 1822.

Thomas Lincoln and Sarah Bush Johnston sold their real estate in Elizabethtown to a man named Wathen in 1829 for \$125.00.

The nephew of Mrs. Benjamin Helm and Mrs. Duff Green, residents of Elizabethtown, married the sister of Mrs. Abraham Lincoln.

Abraham Lincoln, while a candidate and President-elect in 1860, wrote five letters to Samuel Haycraft, a resident of Elizabethtown.

General Ben Hardin Helm, a native of Elizabethtown, and a brother-in-law of Mrs. Abraham Lincoln, is buried in the Helm Cemetery a mile north of the Elizabethtown court house.

Robert L. Wintersmith, Sr., was the only man in Elizabethtown who voted for Lincoln in 1860.

After the election of 1860, D. C. S. Wintersmith was appointed by Abraham Lincoln to the position of postmaster of Elizabethtown in recognition of his father's (R. L. Wintersmith, Sr.) vote for the new Republican party.

General Duff Green, who married Lucretia Edwards, an aunt of Ninian Edwards, who was a brother-in-law of Abraham Lincoln, lived in the same house in Elizabethtown in which Thomas Lincoln and Sarah Bush Johnston were married.

In 1864 Abraham Lincoln received in Elizabethtown thirty votes for the Presidency.

"The Christian's Defence," a book which influenced Lincoln's religious beliefs was dedicated to Judge Henry P. Brodnax, an Elizabethtown lawyer and contemporary of Thomas Lincoln.

Judge Advocate-General Holt, who played a conspicuous part in the trial of the conspirators who aided John Wilkes Booth in the assassination of Abraham Lincoln, began the practice of law in Elizabethtown in the year 1828.

For several months during the year 1813 while Abraham Lincoln, the future 16th president was living on Knob Creek, James Buchanan, the future 15th president represented his father's interests in numerous land litigations in the Elizabethtown courts.

Rineyville, Kentucky, a Hardin county town, was named for Zachariah Riney, Abraham Lincoln's first schoolmaster.

Elizabethtown is the setting for an historical novel of the Lincolns entitled "The Matrix" written by Maria Thompson Daviess.

Highlights in the History of Hardin County

By R. GERALD McMURTRY

The Cultural Environment of the Kentucky Lincoln Homes

The surroundings of Lincoln's Kentucky homes afforded many cultural aspects amid their pioneer setting, despite the fact that one biographer describes the Kentucky environment of the Lincolns as coarse, low, ignorant and poverty stricken. Hardin county was composed in this early day, of settlers from Virginia, Pennsylvania, the Carolinas, and other neighboring states, as well as from foreign countries. All the cultural qualities that had been acquired in their native states, these pioneers brought with them. After the settlement started its permanent growth, many tradesmen and professional men along with others came to reside there. This resulted in a balanced pioneer society in a well regulated community.

Social conditions in Elizabethtown and Hardin county were cordial and democratic. However, divisions in society naturally formed. The pioneer style of dress prevailed in their frontier community, but there were to be seen residents attired in the old world colonial dress of short breeches, white stockings, silver buckles at knee and ankle, and long ribbed dimity coats.

An early historian describing the community states that one resident of pride and fashion rode in careful attire, traveling with a servant who kept at a respectable distance behind, with a large portmanteau on the crupper, a glazed hat in his hand, and a brace of horse pistols at the pommel. Such was the style of the lordly gentleman of that day in this community in which Lincoln's parents made their first home.

Other residents wore their hair powdered and tied behind.

As early as 1800 a dancing master lived within the town's limits. Documentarary evidence found in old court house records show that there were dances or balls held in the court house in the years 1807 and 1808. The churches of this period were very active in punishing their members who danced. An early record has been discovered, dated in the year 1794, in which a member was brought before the church for allowing "frolicking in his home."

Patriotic celebrations were also held in Elizabethtown while Lincoln's parents were residing there. In the year 1807 a number of prominent citizens of the town petitioned the court for the use of the court house for a celebration of the anniversary of American independence. A barbecue dinner was served and there were many toasts and speeches made concerning the heroes of the American Revolution.

Horse racing, the sport of kings, was a favorite recreation of the early citizens of Hardin county. In this county they held a "Derby" and there were several race courses within the county limits. The best track, known as Martin's Turf,

was midway between Elizabethtown and South Fork (birthplace) farm.

Because of its proximity to the Lincoln farm, it is probable that Thomas Lincoln visited this tract on many occasions.

During the period of the Lincolns' residence in Elizabethtown several public exhibitions were given. Theatrical troupes as early as 1789 traveled through the state presenting performances. It is not unlikely that on many occasions the Lincolns were given ample opportunity to witness these presentations.

School exhibitions were annually featured. At the close of a school term of the Elizabethtown Academy it was the custom to exhibit the work of the pupils. One of these exhibitions was held on August 14, 1807, and while it was in progress subscriptions were solicited for another school term.

Animal circuses occasionally toured central Kentucky, and there is a possibility that on Saturday, June 24, 1809, Abraham Lincoln, although less than a year old, saw an elephant. It is likely that almost the entire population of the county came to Elizabethtown on that day to view the exhibition.

The homes in a community are a true index to cultural characteristics. Records show that during Thomas Lincoln's residence in Elizabethtown, hewed log houses were gradually replacing round log houses. These buildings had shingled roofs fastened with poplar pegs, plank floors, and

windows with sash and glass. It is clearly evident that the cabin homes of Elizabethtown were comfortable and suitable to pioneer needs. As Thomas Lincoln was a carpenter, his cabin must have been superior to the others.

In addition to log cabins, brick buildings and residences were erected. "One building was fifty by twenty-five feet, two stories high, the brick walls resting on huge stone foundations with a deep cellar under the whole building. The wainscoting was of seasoned black walnut and the mantelpieces curiously wrought were also of black walnut. The plaster was more than one inch thick . . . and . . . so well trowelled that a man could almost see his face in it."

In this cultural environment Lincoln's parents made their first home, and here their first child was born. When the family moved to the South Fork (birthplace) farm it is hard to think that they would lower their standards of living. They likely enjoyed as many benefits on the farm as they did in the pioneer town, because after their move they did not sever their connections with Elizabethtown. It is probable that they visited the county seat on many occasions and that Abraham Lincoln became familiar with the town and its environs.

Highlights in the History of Hardin County

By R. GERALD McMURTRY 4/23/37

Prominent People Living in Hardin County During the Lincolns Residence in Kentucky

During the period of the Lincoln family's residence in Hardin county, there were living within the limits of the county, which means within a radius of about fifteen miles, many citizens who were destined to become prominent in the nation's history. For longer or shorter periods of time the county then held as residents the future fifteenth President of the United States, future governors of Illinois, Florida, Kentucky and Arkansas, three future United States senators elected from Tennessee, Mississippi, and Kentucky, and three future congressmen from Kentucky, one of whom was elected speaker of the House.

Other noted characters living in Hardin county during this time were John James Audubon, the world's greatest ornithologist, Duff Green, later a member of President Andrew Jackson's "Kitchen Cabinet," and Worden Pope, the best lawyer in land litigation in Kentucky. There also lived in this county the father of Judge Advocate General Holt, who conducted the Lincoln conspiracy trials, and the grandfather of the late Senator Robert M. LaFollette of Wisconsin.

The fact has just recently been discovered that James Buchanan resided in Hardin county for several months during the year 1813. He came to Kentucky with two Elizabethtown merchants who had been East to buy goods. His purpose in coming was to represent his father's interests in numerous land litigations. Because of these interests, he no doubt frequented the court house on many occasions. It is very likely that he knew Thomas Lincoln casually, as Lincoln was also involved in land litigations

during the year 1813. There is even a possibility that James Buchanan may have seen his future successor to the presidency on Saturdays or county court days, but because of the difference in their ages it is unlikely that they would have paid each other more than casual notice.

During the year 1813 Daniel Johnson was jailer of Hardin county, and the duties of cleaning and caring for the building fell to the lot of his wife, Sarah Bush Johnson, who later became the step-mother of Abraham Lincoln. James Buchanan very likely saw this woman on many occasions as she performed her daily tasks at the court house. Such a coincidence of two future succeeding presidents residing within a short distance of each other in the same county many years before either of them achieved prominence is indeed unique.

The future governors mentioned were Ninian Edwards, Governor of Illinois; William C. Duvall, governor of Florida; Charles A. Wickliffe, governor of Kentucky; John L. Helm, governor of Kentucky, and John Pope, governor of Arkansas. Students of Illinois history are, of course, familiar with the life of Ninian Edwards. The most picturesque of the governors mentioned was William C. Duvall. He achieved immortal fame as a character in a sketch entitled "Ralph Ringwood" which was a part of Washington Irving's "Crayon Papers."

Many of these Hardin county residents were personal friends of presidents of the United States and, as an early historian of the county states; "Many were far superior in knowledge and statesmanship."

